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March 22, 2001 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243-0505

In Re: *Petition for Interconnection Arbitration by DIECA Communications, Inc. d/b/a Covad Communications Company, Inc. Against BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.*

Docket No. 00-01130

Dear Gary:

As co-counsel for Covad, I am writing to you in your capacity as pre-hearing officer in the above-captioned arbitration proceeding between Covad and BellSouth.

Yesterday, you met briefly with the parties to discuss whether either party desired a hearing, live or by telephone, concerning BellSouth's pending motion to strike various issues from this arbitration and to address those issues in other dockets. Following the meeting, I discussed your request with Cathy Boone, lead attorney for Covad. Because of the importance of these issues to Covad — and the importance of addressing these issues in the current arbitration proceeding — Ms. Boone requests the opportunity to be heard on BellSouth's motion. Because of the large number of issues in dispute, we anticipate such a hearing would require a minimum of one hour. Ms. Boone is willing either to come to Nashville for argument or participate in a conference call. In either case, Covad will cooperate with BellSouth in arranging a mutually convenient time.

Furthermore, it is Covad's understanding that the March 30 deadline for the filing of testimony has been suspended pending a ruling on BellSouth's motion.

BOULT, CUMMINGS, CONNERS & BERRY, PLC

By:


Henry Walker

Mr. Gary Hotvedt
March 22, 2001
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HW/nl

c: Guy Hicks, Counsel for BellSouth
Mike Twomey, Counsel for BellSouth
Cathy Boone, Counsel for Covad